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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1729  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE  
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/14/2018  
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [IN](#)  
SUBJECT: INDIA EXPECTS BURMA TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ALL  
VESSELS

REF: NEW DELHI 1279

Classified By: Ambassador David Mulford for Reasons 1.4 (B and D)

1. (C/REL AGCU) In a May 14 meeting with Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon, the Ambassador thanked him for conveying to the Burmese junta the U.S. concern about the immense difficulty in foreign assistance reaching the cyclone victims. Menon said that while the message seems to have had an impact in the easing of flight landings, it was "not as much as we wanted." He related that the Burmese Foreign Minister had scheduled a May 13 phone call with Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, which the Burmese postponed to the afternoon of May 14. Menon expected that the Burmese would tell Mukherjee that vessels from all countries could deliver disaster assistance at Burma's ports. The Ambassador requested that, if the Burmese maintained the restrictions on port entry for the U.S., the Indian government consider delivering U.S. aid. Menon said that he had raised this question informally with the Burmese, and would pursue it if the ports remained closed to American vessels.  
MULFORD